

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Natural Resources Department

Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation & Conservation

P.O. Box 278

Pablo, MT 59855

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephanie Gillin
Information and Education Program
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Tuesday August 4, 2026



Attention Bison Ranchers and Interested Tribal Members

Notice of Bison Sale – CSKT Bison Range

The **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)** will conduct a **herd health capture event in September 2026** at the **CSKT Bison Range**. This event is part of our long-term herd management plan to maintain genetic diversity and keep the herd within the Range's carrying capacity.

As part of this effort, **surplus bison** (ages 1–3 years) will be **offered for sale through a sealed bid auction**. Each bison will require an **individual bid**.

The available animals include:

- 15 yearling bulls
- 15 yearling heifers
- 6 two-year-old bulls
- 4 two-year-old heifers
- 4three-year-old heifers
- 6 three-year-old bulls

Minimum Bid Amounts

- Yearling's: \$1000.00 minimum bid each
- Two-year-old's: \$1500.00 minimum bid each
- Three-year-old's: \$1800.00 minimum bid each

A **10% deposit** is required with each bid. Deposits must be in the form of a **cashier's check or money order** (no personal checks), payable to: **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes**

Deposits will be returned to unsuccessful bidders only. Successful bidders who decline to complete the sale will **forfeit their deposit**. Final payment from winning bidders must also be made by **cashier's check, money order, or cash**.

Please note:

- *Bid packets are available for viewing and download on our website at <https://cskt.org/natural-resources/wildlife-management/> (under the Big Game Depredation section), and can be requested to be received via email (wildlife@cskt.org).*
- No guarantees are made regarding the size or weight of animals.
 - All bison will be visibly healthy at the time of loading. *In 2026 Mircoplasma bovis was detected in the Bison Range herd, further testing of bison has shown it has been in the herd since at least 2004, management of this diseases is on-going.*
- **Buyers are responsible for transporting animals.**
- A veterinarian will be on site during the event. Costs for **mandatory health testing** (required for interstate transport) will be the responsibility of the buyer and added to the sale total.
- Buyers should coordinate with **state agricultural offices** for transport requirements.

Deadline for Sealed Bid Submission: All sealed bids must be submitted physically or post marked to our office by 5:30 pm on the closing date of September 10, 2026.

Public Sealed Bid Opening: Sealed bids will be opened on Monday Sept. 14, 2026 at 4:00PM MST at 406 6th Ave E, Polson MT or on Facebook Live at the CSKT Division Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CSKTWildlife>.

Notification of Winning Bids:

High bidders will be notified **after September 15, 2026.**

To request a bid package, contact:

CSKT Wildlife Management Program: 406-883-2888

CSKT Bison Range Biologist: 406-675-2700 ext. 7012

If leaving a voicemail, **please include your name, phone number, mailing address, and ZIP code** so we can send the bid package to you.

Bison Pickup Deadline:

Purchased, live bison must be picked up **between October 5–8, 2026 (Monday–Thursday only)** unless alternate arrangements are approved in advance. Animals not picked up by the deadline may be offered to the next highest bidder.

CSKT BISON RANGE

2026 Surplus Bison

Total reduction of bison herd in 2026 – 50 animals

Please Note: Bid packets are available for viewing and download on our website at <http://csktnrd.org/wildlife>, and can be requested to be received via email (wildlife@cskt.org).

Thank you for your interest.

SALES CONDITIONS

Bidders may bid on one or any number of animals. No multiple-choice bids will be accepted, bid only on the animals wanted. Bids will be considered in whole dollar amounts only (no cents).

A 10% deposit is required with all bids. Deposits must be in the form of a cashier's check or money order, no personal checks. **All deposit checks should be made payable to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.** Deposit checks will **ONLY** be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Successful bidders that decline will forfeit their deposit. Final payment for successful bidders may only be in the form of cashier's check, money order, or cash, no personal checks.

No bids will be accepted by phone or mail after 5:30 PM on the closing date of September 10, 2026.

Bison from the Bison Range are wild animals. As with all federal and state agencies managing wildlife; the CSKT makes no certification as to the suitability for human consumption. Meat inspection is responsibility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and can be arranged independently through cooperating slaughter establishments.

The Bison Range is following a herd-health monitoring program for bison. This program is designed to assess the presence and prevalence of diseases in the population as a whole, and not to determine presence or absence of disease in individual animals. This program is part of an adaptive management process and emphasis varies according to current and local wildlife threats and/or needs for early detection and rapid response of wildlife diseases. Some agents of diseases such as Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF), Johne's disease (*M. paratuberculosis*), and Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), have been detected at very low levels in the past.

Opportunistic testing in 2025 found the bison Range bison may have *Microplasma bovis*, further testing found in archive samples shows infection at least as far back as 2004, or further, in an effort to see prevalence of the disease in the herd CSKT will be testing as many herd members as possible to calculate next steps in management.

The Bison Range bison come from outside the designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area in Montana.

The CSKT Bison Range provides an on-site veterinarian during the Handling Event to conduct veterinary inspections and other necessary testing. The Bison Range will permit brucellosis and tuberculosis testing of bison leaving the range to meet animal health requirements of a recipient state. This must be arranged by the buyer with our on-site veterinarian. The Bison Range will provide holding facilities, feed and water for the 5 days required for tuberculosis testing and for shipping arrangements to be made. Costs incurred for these tests, a certificate of veterinary inspection, and any additional testing required by receiving states, are the responsibility of the buyer. **Successful bidders are responsible for determining the testing requirements for their state and coordinating such testing with the Bison Range (406) 644-2211, or CSKT Biologist Shannon Clairmont(406)-675-2700 ext.7012 by September 22, 2026.**

Selection of animals for this sale is predetermined by the CSKT Bison Range Biologist prior to the handling event. Sale animals are identified and herded into sale pens during our annual bison capture operation. This will occur on September 28th to October 1st between 8:30 and 5:30 pm and is not open to public viewing in 2026. Reasonable effort will be made to deliver normal and apparently healthy animals.

All animals will be delivered to buyer's trucks between the dates of October 5th-8th, 2026. Exact date and time for pick up is scheduled by the refuge biologist and buyer and can vary according to number purchased by buyer and timelines for required health tests. Out of state buyers schedule will be dependent on recipient state regulations and should be planned

for in advance. A scheduled time for pick up will need to be arranged the week prior to the Capture Event and shipping will be conducted the week following the Handling Event.

TURN OVER

An appropriate “Bill of Sale” will be given to each buyer. Bison are sold, AS IS, NO WARRANTY, further, this is a contract for sale, any contractual disputes will be resolved in the CSKT forums.

Hauling equipment must be sturdy, well ventilated and covered with solid paneling over any holes/open areas to prevent bison from seeing outside the trailer; bison settle down faster when outside visual stimuli are eliminated. It is recommended that buyers plan on hauling any bulls separately from females. Light pickup stock-racks or small trailers are not sturdy enough for any animal over a yearling and will not be loaded. Any failure to load an animal due to equipment failure, or inadequate equipment, will result in the delivery of the bison being rescheduled to a later date to ensure adequate equipment is sourced. Cost incurred due to any delayed delivery of bison, for any reason, are the responsibility of the buyer.

All trucks and trailers must be thoroughly cleaned prior to entry into the Bison Range. Buyers must check in at the Visitor Center upon arrival. Equipment will be inspected and sprayed with a disinfectant before being directed to the loading station. Vehicles/trailers with unclean beds will not be loaded and directed to the nearest wash station (Charlo, St. Ignatius, or Ronan.)

CSKT Bison Range will not allow onsite slaughtering, this is done at buyers own residence, or at the buyers arranged slaughter facility.

BID INVITATION SALE OF LIVE BISON
CSKT Bison Range
58355 Bison Range Road
Moiese, Montana 59824
Phone (406) 675-2700

Date Issued/Opened: August 03, 2026

Bid Closed: September 10, 2026 5:30 PM

The CSKT Bison Range is offering **50** live American Bison (buffalo) for sale by sealed, competitive bid. Top bid per animal for each group will be awarded first, then the second highest bid, and so on until all animals in each sex and age group have been awarded. Bids are accepted for one or more animals. Bids will be considered in whole dollars only (no cents). **The Bison Range cannot guarantee fulfillment of sale quantities in any given year.**

Sealed bids in single copy with deposit will be received at the above address until **5:30 P.M.** (Mountain Daylight Saving Time), on the date specified. This bid is a contractual agreement. By bidding and signing this, you are contractually obligated to complete the purchase. If you do not sign this page, your bid is null and void.

Bid envelopes should be marked "Bison Bid – open before 5:30 P.M., Wednesday September 10, 2026.

QUANTITY AVAILABLE	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER DESIRED	PRICE BID PER ANIMAL	TOTAL BID
15	Yearling Males		\$	\$
15	Yearling Females		\$	\$
6	Two-year old Males		\$	\$
4	Two-year old Females		\$	\$
6	Three-year old Males		\$	\$
4	Three-year old Females		\$	\$
Minimum Bids	Yearlings \$1000 Two-year olds/ \$1,500 bison Three-year olds \$1,800/bison			

Name of Individual or Firm (Please print):

Signature:

Address/ **Phone Number**

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

TURN OVER

Deposit to **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes** in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed
(US FUNDS)

Contact persons: Shannon Clairmont, (406) 675-2700 ext. 7012 shannon.clairmont@cskt.org or Kari
Kingery, 406 7675-2700 ext. 7217 kari.kingery@cskt.org